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## CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### High-Speed Rail Advances

Sacramento – Senate Bill 1856, Authored by Senator Costa, passed the Assembly with a 59 to 16 vote on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and also passed the Senate on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> with a 27 to 6 vote. The bill is now scheduled to go before the Governor for his signature. SB1856 would authorize a \$9.95 billion general obligation bond for the November 2004 ballot. \$9 billion would create the State's share of the construction costs for the San Francisco to Los Angeles segment of the high-speed train system as presented in the Authority's business plan. The remaining \$950 million would be dedicated to feeder rail programs to the high-speed rail system.

Senate Bill 796, Authored by Senator Costa, also passed the Senate on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, with a 26 to 9 vote and is currently before the Governor for his signature. This bill would eliminate the Authority's December 31, 2003 sunset date.

These two measures are extremely important to the efforts of building the proposed high-speed rail system in a timely manner. "High-Speed Rail is the Internet of surface transportation and will never be more needed nor less expensive than right now in CA", said Rod Diridon, High-Speed Rail Authority Chair.

"The High-Speed Rail Authority and the people of California owe a great debt of thanks to Senator Costa for his long and strong leadership and to Assemblyman Florez for his great efforts in breaking the stalemate in the Assembly", said Rod Diridon, High-Speed Rail Authority Chair.

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